Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 ANKARA 02169 250904Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /072 W
----------251216Z 097894 /13
R 250705Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6883
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL ADANA
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMCONSUL IZMIR
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION NATO
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
USDOCOSOUTH

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ANKARA 2169

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, TU
SUBJECT: TURKEY'S TWO MAJOR PARTIES FORMALLY ENDORSE EARLY ELECTIONS

REF: ANKARA 2037 (181515Z MAR 77)

1. BOTH THE GOVERNING JUSTICE PARTY (JP) AND THE OPPOSITION REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY (RPP) FIRMLY COMMITTED THEMSELVES ON MARCH 23 TO SEEK TO ADVANCE THE DATE OF GENERAL ELECTIONS TO JUNE, WITH THE JP JOINT PARLIAMENTARY GROUP ADOPTING SUCH A RESOLUTION UNANIMOUSLY AND THE RPP JOINT PARLIAMENTARY GROUP ADOPTING A FAVORABLE RESOLUTION WITH ONLY ONE VOTE AGAINST AND ONE ABSTENTION, ACCORDING TO MARCH 24 MEDIA REPORTS.
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 ANKARA 02169 250904Z

HOWEVER, THE SECOND LARGEST PARTY IN THE GOVERNMENT COALITION, THE NATIONAL SALVATION PARTY (NSP) REITERATED ITS OPPOSITION AND DECLARED ITS INTENTION TO USE ALL POSSIBLE MEANS TO BLOCK EARLY ELECTIONS.

2. PRIMIN AND JP CHAIRMAN SULEYMAN DEMIREL REPORTEDLY SAID AT THE JP REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY MARCH 19 THAT NEW ELECTIONS

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

WERE NECESSARY TO END THE "HARDSHIPS" CAUSED BY THE "DIFFICULT PARLIAMENTARY ARITHMETIC INTRODUCED BY THE 1973 ELECTIONS" AND TO "SETTLE ACCOUNTS WITH THE RPP, "X WHICH WAS "FILIBUSTERING" THE LEGISLATION OF BILLS NECESSARY FOR LAW AND ORDER.

3. RPP LEADER ECEVIT TOLD THE PRESS AFTER THE RPP DECISION HAD BEEN TAKEN THAT THE JP'S DECISION TO SEEK EARLY ELECTIONS VINDICATED THE RPP'S LONG-TERM ADVOCACY OF THE IDEA, BASED ON THE RPP CONTENTION THAT "THE PARLIAMENT FORMED AFTER THE 1973 ELECTIONS WOULD NOT PUT FORWARD A LASTING AND COHERENT GOVERNMENT. THE JP ITSELF CAN NO LONGER TOLERATE THE GOVERNMENT, THE CRISIS IT CREATED ITSELF, THE DOMESTIC AND EXTERNAL PROBLEMS WHICH IT AGGRAVATED," ECEVIT REPORTEDLY CHARGED. "IT HAS THUS PROVED THAT THE JP MADE THE NATION LOSE TWO YEARS BY FLEEING FROM EARLY ELECTIONS IN 1974. THE RPP APPROVES OF EARLY ELECTIONS, NOT TO SAVE THE JP, BUT TO PROTECT THE COUNTRY FROM GRAVER CRISES, AND DANGERS, TO SAVE THE PEOPLE AND THE YOUTH AS SOON AS POSSIBLE FROM THE MURDERERS AND BRIGANDS INCITED AND SUPPORTED BY SOME PARTNERS IN THIS GOVERNMENT WHICH THE JP HEADS."

4. THE NSP JOINT GROUP, MEETING MARCH 23, DECIDED THAT "EARLY ELECTIONS SHOULD BE OBSTRUCTED BY TAKING ADVANTAGE OF ALL POSSIBILITIES." NSP HEAD, DEPUTY PRIMIN ERBAKAN, TOLD THE PRESS THAT "A RULING PARTY CANNOT LEAVE DUTY WHILE CARRYING THE RESPONSIBILITY. THIS WOULD MEAN RUNNING AWAY FROM GOVERNMENT. I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT JP WILL BE ABLE TO DRAG THE COUNTRY TO EARLY ELECTIONS JUST BECAUSE IT HAS BECOME EXHAUSTED AND HAS RUN OUT OF GAS...WE BELIEVE THE NSP IS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

STRONG ENOUGH TO DRAW THE OTHERS ALONG AND CONTINUE PROVIDING SERVICE."

5. THE NSP'S THREAT WAS NOT AN IDLE ONE. THE MARCH 23 PRESS HAD DROPPED THE BOMBSHELL DISCOVERY THAT THE NSP, SIMPLY BY BOYCOTTING THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY'S CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL MEETINGS, COULD ALLEGEDLY PREVENT EARLY ELECTIONS. ACCORDING TO ARTICLE 93 OF THE STANDING ORDERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, ALL PROPOSALS FOR EARLY ELECTIONS CAN BE CONSIDERED BY THE NA ONLY AFTER THE VIEWS OF THE CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL HAVE BEEN OBTAINED" AND AFTER THE APPROVAL OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL COMMITTEE. BY A PRECEDENT ESTABLISHED LAST SEPTEMBER DURING THE DEBATE OVER THE STATE SECURITY COURTS, THE CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL CANNOT HOLD A LEGAL MEETING WITHOUT THE PRESENCE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF ALL THE NA PARTY GROUPS (JP, RPP, NSP, AND DP). SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH THIS REVELATION, NSP GROUP ACTING CHAIRMAN SULEYMAN ARIF EMRE STATED THAT THE NSP WOULD STAY AWAY FROM THE CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL IN ORDER TO PREVENT EARLY ELECTIONS. DP GROUP

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

ACTING CHAIRMAN OZER OLCMEN ANNOUNCED THAT THE DP WOULD DO THE SAME UNLESS THE ISSUES OF THE "SUNTA AFFAIR" (FOREIGN EXCHANGE MANIPULATION SCANDAL INVOLVING DEMIREL'S NEPHEW) AND THE LOCKHEED BRIBERY SCANDAL WERE SETTLED. NA SPEAKER GUVEN WAS QUOTED IN THE MARCH 23 PRESS AS AGREEING THAT NON-PARTICIPATION OF THE NSP AND/OR THE DP IN THE CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL COULD SCUTTLE EARLY ELECTIONS. "I HAVE NOT MADE A CAREFUL STUDY, BUT I DO NOT BELIEVE THERE IS ANY OTHER WAY OUT," HE WAS REPORTED AS SAYING.

6. THE MARCH 24 PRESS REPORTED ECEVIT AS SAYING, " WE EXPECT THAT INSTEAD OF OBSTRUCTING THE LEGISLATION OF THIS DECISION BY TAKING ADVANTAGE OF SOME PROVISIONS OF THE STANDING ORDERS, ALL PRARTY GROUPS AND PARLIAMENTARIANS WILL COMPLY WITH THE WISH COMING FROM THE NATION. IT IS JUST AS IMPORTANT TO HOLD ELECTIONS IN SECURITY, DEMOCRATICALLY AND WITHOUT CAUSING FURTHER BLOODSHED, AS IT IS TO HOLD ELECTIONS... WE BELIEVE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 04 ANKARA 02169 250904Z

THAT THE UNITY OF ALL THE PARTIES IN MOVING THE ELECTIONS FORWARD WILL ALSO MATERIALIZE THE CONDITIONS FOR GOING TO THE NATION IN SECURITY." IN ANSWER TO A REPORTER'S QUESTION, ECEVIT SAID THAT "VARIOUS POSSIBILITIES, ALTHOUGH LIMITED IN NUMBER, CAN BE FOUND TO OVERCOME (THE NSP'S) OBSTRUCTION." GUVEN WAS REPORTED IN THE MARCH 24 PRESS AS RETREATING FROM HIS EARLIER STATEMENT (PARA 5), SAYING "I CAN MAKE NO INTERPRETATIONS AT THE MOMENT... I EXPECT THAT ALL PARTIES WITH A GROUP WILL ATTEND (THE CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL). IF NOT, WE WILL HAVE TO... FIND A NEW SOLUTION." GUVEN CALLED THE CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL TO MEET MARCH 25.

7. MARCH 24 AFTERNOON RADIO QUOTED RPP LEADER ECEVIT AND RPP-MEMBER GUVEN AS WAVERING IN TANDEM. ECEVIT STATED THAT A DECISION FOR EARLY ELECTIONS, "IF TAKEN WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF ALL PARTIES HAVING GROUPS IN THE PARLIAMENT," WILL BE TO THE ADVANTAGE OF THE CUNTRY. GUVEN WAS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT HE IS DETERMINED TO USE ALL HIS POWERS TO ENSURE THE REACHING OF A DECISION FOR EARLY ELECTIONS "WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF ALL PARTIES."

8. ECEVIT'S MARCH 23 STATEMENTS, BESIDES FIRMLY COMMITTING THE RPP ALONG WITH THE JP IN FAVOR OF EARLY ELECTIONS, APPEARDD TO DROP THE PREVIOUS RPP INSISTENCE ON REPLACEMENT OF THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT PREVIOUS TO THE HOLDING OF ELECTIONS. AT THIS POINT, WITH BOTH MAJOR PARTIES FIRMLY COMMITTED IN PUBLIC TO EARLY ELECTIONS, THE CHANCES FOR JUNE ELECTIONS LOOK BETTER. HOWEVER, THE RPP LEADERSHIP MAY HAVE BEEN DRIVEN INTO ITS PRESENT STAND BY PUBLIC PRESSURE AND AGAINST ITS BETTER JUDGMENT (PARTY ORTHODOXY HOLDS THAT BY OCTOBER THE DEMIREL GOVERNMENT AS A WHOLE WILL HAVE BEEN DISCREDITED BY

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

INTERNAL SQUABBLING AND ECONOMIC PROBLEMS AND THAT THE
JP WILL HAVE SUFFERED AN EROSION OF SUPPORT TO THE NSP).
ASIDE FROM THE REAL POSSIBILITY THAT THE NSP BY ITSELF MIGHT
BE ABLE TO OBSTRUCT EARLY ELECTIONS, THERE IS ALSO A GREATER
CHANCE THAT THE RPP, UNDER THE COVER OF OBSERVANCE OF
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 05 ANKARA 02169 250904Z

PARLIAMENTARY REQUIREMENTS, MAY COOPERATE IN KILLING EARLY
ELECTIONS BUT USE THE NSP AS A SCAPEGOAT.
MACOMBER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, POLITICAL PARTIES, OPPOSITION PARTIES, NATIONAL ELECTIONS, CENTRAL LEGISLATURE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 25-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ANKARA02169
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770102-1204
Format: TEL
From: ANKARA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770324/aaaaaubn.tel
Line Count: 184
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: b19661b2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 ANKARA 2037
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3002321
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TURKEY\'S TWO MAJOR PARTIES FORMALLY ENDORSE EARLY ELECTIONS
TAGS: PINT, TU
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b19661b2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009